

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 02308 110845Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 /028 W
-----033764 110903Z /12
R 110810Z OCT 77
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8887
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PEKING 2308

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EFIN, CH, US

SUBJ: PRC POLICY ON AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAVELERS CHECKS:
A CONTINUING SAGA

REF: PEKING 692

1. PRC PRACTICE ON THE CASHING OF AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAVELERS CHECKS, AS MANIFESTED AT THE PEKING HOTEL BRANCH OF BANK OF CHINA, APPEARS TO HAVE CHANGED AGAIN. BANK OFFICIALS ARE CASHING CHECKS WITHOUT QUESTION, BUT WITH ONE INTERESTING NEW REQUIREMENT: THE LINE TO BE FILLED IN WITH THE NAME OF THE CITY IS TO BE LEFT BLANK. ALSO, THE PROMINENT SIGN ANNOUNCING THE REFUSAL TO CASH AMERICAN EXPRESS CHECKS WHICH WENT UP APRIL 1, 1977, IS NOW BARELY VISIBLE THROUGH THE BRANCHES OF A LARGE POTTED TREE.

2. WE KNOW OF ONE CASE (WITNESSED BY USLO OFFICER) OF VISITOR ON SEPTEMBER 16 BEING REQUIRED TO ACCEPT DISCOUNT OF TEN PERCENT OF FACE VALUE OF AMEX CHECKS FOR PRIVILEGE OF CASHING THEM. THIS IS ONLY TIME WE HAVE HEARD OF THIS PRACTICE, WHICH WAS
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APPARENTLY TEMPORARY. MORE RECENT VISITORS HAVE NOT BEEN REQUIRED TO PAY DISCOUNT.

3. COMMENT: PRC PRACTICE ON THE CASHING OF AMEX CHECKS REMAINS VARIABLE DEPENDING ON THE PLACE OF CASHING. WE STILL HEAR, FOR

EXAMPLE, THAT THE BANK OF CHINA BRANCH AT SHUMCHUN
STILL REFUSES TO CASH AMEX AND FNCB CHECKS,
AND RECENT USLO TRAVELER WAS ROUTINELY TOLD
BY CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE OFFICE IN HONG KONG
THAT AMEX CHECKS WERE NOT ACCEPTABLE IN PRC.

4. THE NEW REQUIREMENT TO LEAVE BLANK THE CITY
OF CASHING IS OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED TO ALLOW THE
BANK OF CHINA TO LIST A CITY OUTSIDE THE
PRC, THEREBY MAINTAINING ON ITS RECORDS AND THOSE
OF AMEX THE OSTENSIBLE POLICY OF NOT CASHING
AMEX CHECKS.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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